

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a method of pre-heating a pot provided with anodes and cathodes for the production of aluminium by electrolysis, said method including a first step, prior to the pot being supplied with current, during which a layer of a granular conductive material is deposited then crushed between the anodes and the cathodes, characterized in that the granular conductive material is graphite-based and in that the layer of granular conductive material only extends, after crushing, over a part of a lower surface of each anode and takes the form of contact blocks.